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detaching said mounting assembly from a housing of the underfloor receptacle box; and unplugging at least one of said electrical cable/connector, a data connector and a telephone connector.

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15. (Amended) The receptacle box of claim 1, wherein at least one said pass-through connector is connected to one of a source of electrical power, a source of data and a source of telecommunications.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending and rejected in this application. Claims 1, 3, 10, 11 and 15 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 3, 4, 11, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended claim 3, 11 and 15 and submits that claims 3, 4, 11, 12 and 15 do now particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of Applicant's invention and that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,967,041 (Bowman), Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 and submits that claims 1-8 and 10-15 are in condition for allowance.

Bowman discloses a floor box including a front wall 2, a back wall 6 and parallel side walls 10 and 11 (column 2, lines 4-8). Plate 41 is oriented at an angle and is attached to back wall 6 (Fig. 1 and column 3, lines 4-10). Cover 50 defines the power channel and has openings 60, which receive a wire connector 61. Wire connector 61 is adapted to receive cable head 62.

Receptacle 43 is electrically connected to wire connector 61 by conductors 63 (column 3, lines 22-31).

In contrast claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

at least one pass-through connector ... configured to receive an electrical cable/connector on the inside of said housing and a mating power connector on the outside of said housing.

(Emphasis added) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Bowman or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Bowman discloses a floor box including a wire connector 61 adapted to receive cable head 62. Receptacle 43 is electrically connected to wire connector 61 by conductors 63. However, Bowman fails to disclose or suggest at least one pass-through connector configured to receive an electrical cable/connector on the inside of the housing and a mating power connector on the outside of the housing, as is recited in part in claim 1. Contrary to the Examiner's position, pass-through connector 26 is not the same as wire connector 61 of Bowman. Pass-through connector 26 is distinguishable over Bowman in that both an electrical cable/connector 50 on the inside of underfloor box 10 and a mating power connector 27 on the outside of underfloor box 10 are detachable therefrom. A pass-through connector is described in the specification beginning on page 4, line 11, as mating with a connector on the inside of housing 12 and also mating with a connector on the outside of housing 12. No such connector is disclosed or taught in Bowman.

An advantage of Applicant's invention over Bowman and the other cited references is that the present invention advantageously allows an installer the ability to electrically disconnect electrical receptacle 48 from the inside of underfloor box 10 without disconnecting a connector

that is outside of underfloor box 10 or from unwiring the receptacle from wiring connections, at least one of which would be necessitated by the Bowman underfloor box. A further advantage of the present invention is that electrical receptacle 48 can be safely removed from underfloor box 10 without otherwise disconnecting electrical power from underfloor box 10. This is inherently possible with Applicant's invention by lifting mounting assembly 16 and unplugging cable/connector 50 from pass-through connector 26. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, and claims 2-8 and 15 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Additionally claim 10, as amended, recites in part:

disconnecting an electrical cable/connector from a pass-through connector, said pass-through connector being configured to receive said electrical cable/connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box and a mating power connector on the outside of the underfloor receptacle box.

(Emphasis added) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Bowman or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Bowman discloses a floor box including a wire connector 61 adapted to receive cable head 62. Receptacle 43 is electrically connected to wire connector 61 by conductors 63. However, Bowman fails to disclose or suggest the step of disconnecting an electrical cable/connector from a pass-through connector, the pass-through connector being configured to receive the electrical cable/connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box and a mating power connector on the outside of the underfloor receptacle box, as is recited in part in amended claim 10. Contrary to the Examiner's position, pass-through connector 26 is not the same as wire connector 61 of Bowman. Pass-through connector 26 is distinguishable over Bowman in that both an electrical

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cable/connector 50 on the inside of underfloor box 10 and a mating power connector 27 on the outside of underfloor box 10 are detachable therefrom. A pass-through connector is described in the specification beginning on page 4, line 11, as mating with a connector on the inside of housing 12 and also mating with a connector on the outside of housing 12. No such connector is disclosed or taught in Bowman.

An advantage of Applicant's invention over Bowman and the other cited references is that the present invention advantageously allows an installer the ability to electrically disconnect electrical receptacle 48 from the inside of underfloor box 10 without disconnecting a connector that is outside of underfloor box 10 or from unwiring the receptacle from the wiring connections, at least one of which would be necessitated by the underfloor box of Bowman. A further advantage of the present invention is that electrical receptacle 48 can be safely removed from underfloor box 10 without otherwise disconnecting electrical power from underfloor box 10. This is inherently possible with Applicant's invention by lifting mounting assembly 16 and unplugging cable/connector 50 from pass-through connector 26. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 10, and claims 11-14 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman. However, claim 9 depends from claim 1, which is in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 9 is in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

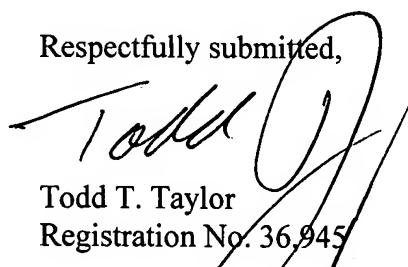
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the

invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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November 6, 2002
Date

Title: RECEPTACLE BOX FOR AN UNDER FLOOR SYSTEM

Application Serial No.: 10/0161,398 Group: 2831

Examiner: Angel R. Estrada

ATTACHMENT A:
MARKED-UP COPY SHOWING AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims 3, 11 and 15 for original claims 3, 11 and 15:

1. (Twice Amended) An underfloor receptacle box, comprising:
 - a housing having a plurality of openings including a first opening and a second opening;
 - a lid detachably attached to said housing substantially closing said first opening;
 - at least one pass-through connector, at least one said pass-through connector being at least partially disposed in said second opening, at least one said pass-through connector being configured to receive an electrical cable/connector on the inside of said housing and a mating power connector on the outside of said housing; and
 - an insert having at least one angled wall, said insert being removably connected to said housing, said insert having a continuous wireway between said at least one angled wall and said housing.
3. (Amended) The receptacle box of claim 2, wherein said electrical power receptacle includes an electrical cable connected to said electrical power receptacle and an electrical connector connected to said electrical cable, said electrical connector configured to mate with at least one said pass-through connector.

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10. (Twice Amended) A method of reconfiguring an underfloor receptacle box, comprising the steps of:

removing a mounting assembly from the underfloor receptacle box;
disconnecting an electrical cable/connector from a pass-through connector, said pass-through connector being configured to receive said electrical cable/connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box and a mating power connector on the outside of the underfloor receptacle box; and

installing a pre-configured mounting assembly into the underfloor receptacle box.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said removing step includes the steps of:

detaching said mounting assembly from a housing of the underfloor receptacle box; and
unplugging at least one of [an] said electrical cable/connector [connector], a data connector and a telephone connector.

15. (Amended) The receptacle box of claim 1, wherein at least one said pass-through connector is [interconnected] connected to one of a source of electrical power, a source of data and a source of telecommunications.